WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A document retrieval system comprising:

a document processing engine configured to extract search keys from a data file to identify internal characteristics of said data file;

a speech recognition engine configured to convert spoken characteristics associated with certain said files to spoken characteristic data; and

a data structure which associates said internal characteristics of a file and any said spoken characteristics of a file with said file in a memory.

2.   The document retrieval system of claim 1 further comprising:

a search engine configured to search for said internal characteristics and any said spoken characteristics within said memory so as to identify files associated with said internal characteristics and any said spoken characteristics.

3.   The document retrieval system of claim 1 wherein at least some of said files contain textual information.

4.   The document retrieval system of claim 2 further comprising a character recognition engine configured to provide said textual information.

5.   The document retrieval system of claim 1 wherein at least some of said files contain image data.

6.   The document retrieval system of claim 4 wherein the document processing engine includes an object recognition system.

3165389

7.   A method of identifying documents comprising the steps of:

identifying internal characteristics of a file;

converting spoken words associated with said file into spoken characteristics associated with said file; and

creating metadata associating said internal characteristics and said spoken characteristics with said file.

8.   The method of claim 6 further including the step of:

searching said metadata to identify said file.

9.   The method of claim 6 wherein said internal characteristics of a file include textual information.

10.   The method of claim 8 further comprising the step of recognizing print characters to provide said textual information.

11.   The method of claim 6 wherein said file contains an image.

12.   The method of claim 10 further comprising the step of recognizing and classifying at least one object depicted in said image.

13.   An image storage system comprising:

an image capture platform providing captured images;

a memory storing image data captured by said image capture platform together with said spoken information relating to said image data; and

5   a metadata providing an association between said captured images and said spoken information.

14.   The image storage system of claim 13 further comprising:

a microphone providing spoken information.

15.   The image storage system of claim 12 further comprising:

an object recognizer providing identification of objects within said captured images.

16.   The images storage system of claim 12 further comprising a speech recognition engine configured to convert said spoken information to spoken characteristic data.

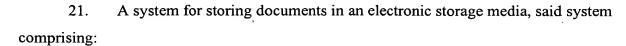17.   The image storage system of claim 12 further comprising:

a plurality of text files, each with a corresponding file name;

a document processing engine configured to extract search keys from each of said files; and

5   said metadata further providing an association between said search keys and said file names.

18.   The image storage system of claim 15 further comprising:

an object recognizer providing identification of objects within said captured images.

19.   The images storage system of claim 15 further comprising a speech recognition engine configured to convert said spoken information to spoken characteristic data.

20.   The image storage system of claim 15 further comprising a character recognition engine configured to provide the textual information.

3165389

21.   A system for storing documents in an electronic storage media, said system comprising:

means for obtaining from each said document to be stored, data tags pertaining to certain characteristics of said document, said data tags selected from the list of character recognition, semantics processing, object recognition, and voice recognition; and

means for associating said data tags with each said document.

22.   The system of claim 19 further comprising:

means for retrieving stored ones of said documents based upon receipt of a data tag associated with said document to be retrieved.